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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,632	12/21/2001	David G. Wang	108827-129CON	1497
23483	7590	02/25/2004	EXAMINER	
HALE AND DORR, LLP 60 STATE STREET BOSTON, MA 02109			ZHOU, SHUBO	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1631		

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

S.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	WANG, DAVID G.	
10/027,632		
Examiner	Art Unit	
Shubo "Joe" Zhou	1631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003 and 09 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' election, with traverse, of SEQ ID NO:1, and the amendment to claim 1, in the response filed 12/08/03 and 12/09/03 , are acknowledged, and the amendment entered.

Applicants' traverse is essentially on the grounds that since all the 325,720 sequences disclosed and claimed in the application had been submitted to the Office and searching all the sequences would not be a burden to the Office. This traverse is not found persuasive because, as set forth in the previous Office action, given the multitude of sequence submission and the increasing number of nucleic acid databases and the amount of information thereof, it would impose undue search burden to the Office if all the 325,720 sequences would be examined and searched. Thus, the traversal arguments are non-persuasive. The restriction requirement is still deemed proper and is, therefore, made FINAL.

Currently, claim 1 is pending and under consideration.

Specification

The specification is objected to because of the following:

It is noted that the disclosure does not contain a paper copy of the Sequence Listing as in the computer readable form, but a CD-ROM containing the same sequences is used as a "paper" copy as three identical CD-ROM containing the Sequence Listings are filed on 4/30/02. When portions of an application are contained on a compact disc, the paper portion of the specification must identify the compact disc(s) and list the files including name, file size, and creation date on each of the compact discs. See 37 CFR 1.52(e). However, the compact disc containing the

sequence listing is not identified in the paper portion of the specification with a listing of all of the files contained on the disc. Applicant is required to amend the specification to identify each disc and the files contained on each disc including the file name, file size, and file creation date. Further, the specification does not contain an incorporation by reference statement for the compact discs. See 37 CFR 1.77(b)(4). Applicant(s) are required to insert in the specification an incorporation-by-reference of the material on the compact disc(s).

Also, the specification on page 6 indicates that the disclosure contains a Jaz disk containing information about the each sequence of the Sequence Listing and the positions of the polymorphism thereon, etc. Such information should be presented on a CD-ROM according to 37 CFR 1.52. Applicants are required to provide CD-ROM containing such information and amend the specification accordingly and fully comply with 37 CFR 1.52 and 1.77. See also MPEP section 608.05.

Claim Rejections-35 USC § 101 and § 112

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The pending claims have been reviewed in light of the Utility Examination Guidelines and Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph,

Written Description Requirement, Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 4, pages 1092-1111, Friday, January 5, 2001.

The examiner is using the following definitions in evaluating the claims for utility.

"Specific" - A utility that is *specific* to the subject matter claimed. This contrasts with a *general* utility that would be applicable to the broad class of the invention.

"Substantial" - A utility that defines a "real world" use. Utilities that require or constitute carrying out further research to identify or reasonably confirm a "real world" context of use are not substantial utilities.

"Credible" - Credibility is assessed from the perspective of one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the disclosure and any other evidence of record that is probative of the applicant's assertions. That is, the assertion is an inherently unbelievable undertaking or involves implausible scientific principles.

"Well-established" - a specific, substantial, and credible utility which is well known, immediately apparent, or implied by the specification's disclosure of the properties of a material, alone or taken with the knowledge of one skilled in the art.

See also the MPEP at §§ 2107 - 2107.02.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility due to its not being supported by a specific, substantial, and credible utility or, in the alternative, a well-established utility.

The specification on page 4 and elsewhere asserts that the claimed SNP nucleic acids are useful in classifying people according to their genetic variation and in linking generic

information with human diseases. This is not deemed as a specific utility because it is generic to any sequence variations and no specific diseases or conditions are specifically provided in the specification that could be linked with the claimed SNP nucleic acid. Further, this utility is not considered substantial because further research is needed to determine for what specific diseases can the claimed SNP nucleic acid be used for linkage analysis.

Neither the specification as filed nor any art of record discloses or suggests any property or activity for the claimed nucleic acid such that another non-asserted utility would be well established for the claimed invention.

Claim 1 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Specifically, since the claimed invention lacks patentable utility due to its not being supported by a specific, substantial, and credible utility or, in the alternative, a well-established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention.

It is noted that claim 1 recites “an oligonucleotide that is complementary to a SNP nucleic acid”. The term “complementary” is interpreted as completely (100%) complementary at each and every corresponding nucleotide and at the same length. Thus, the claimed “oligonucleotide that is complementary to a SNP nucleic acid” is interpreted as being an oligonucleotide that is 100% match according to the Watson-Crick complementary principle, and at the full-length of 529 bp, with the SNP nucleic acid of the elected SEQ ID NO:1.

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

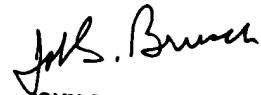
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shubo (Joe) Zhou, whose telephone number is 571-272-0724. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on 571-272-0722. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Patent Analyst William Phillips whose telephone number is 571-272-0548, or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shubo (Joe) Zhou, Ph.D. 

Patent Examiner


JOHN S. BRUSCA, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER